

Kingston, NY - With the new majority in the House of Representatives putting the finishing touches on their plan to repeal the recently enacted health care law, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) is siding with area residents who have benefited directly from the new reform law. With millions of Americans enjoying new protections from insurance company abuses, lower prescription drug costs and tax credits to help small businesses provide insurance to their employees, Hinchey argues repeal would be a disaster. Instead he is pushing for bipartisan cooperation in making constructive improvements to the set of reforms that were set forth last March.

"If the lobbyists have their way, we'll go back to the days when insurance companies can drop you just because you've had a heart attack, and when a child with leukemia won't be able to find insurance for the rest of their life due to a pre-existing condition," said Hinchey. "If they have their way, 2.4 million young adults will be kicked off their parent's plans and small business owners, who are counting on a new 35 percent tax credit to help provide coverage to their employees, will be forced to drop coverage. I said right from the beginning that the health care law isn't perfect - few things ever are. That's why we need to work together to make new improvements that address the concerns that many people are expressing. Repeal would create a situation of chaotic uncertainty that would recklessly strip away new benefits and protections that are already helping millions of Americans - it's just not the right solution."

Under the repeal plan, this year 4 million small businesses would lose out on tax credits to provide health insurance for their employees and 28.6 million Americans would lose out on tax credits to help cover health care costs starting in 2014. Millions of seniors would pay a higher cost for prescription drugs, 88 million Americans would lose their free preventive care services and the number of uninsured individuals would increase over time by 29 million.

Hinchey also emphasized that the repeal plan would shock the economy by increasing unpredictability in the marketplace, noting that the largest single drop in the unemployment rate in 12 years occurred in December. Among the 935,000 new private sector jobs created since March, 171,000 jobs have been created in the health care sector. A study by Harvard Economics Professor David Cutler and USC Health Policy Professor Neeraj Sood concludes that the health reform law will create as many as 4 million jobs over the next decade by lowering costs.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has indicated that repealing the health care reform law would increase the deficit by \$230 billion over the first ten years and by over \$1

trillion in the second ten years. According to the Medicare actuaries, repeal would weaken Medicare, making the program insolvent 12 years earlier than currently projected.

Hinchey has also targeted several areas where the Affordable Care law could be improved to further lower costs and improve the system as a whole. Notably, he focused on allowing for the negotiation of prescription drug costs through Medicare to save \$156 billion over ten years and expediting the time frame for implementing provisions that reduce prescription drug costs and reduce Medicare fraud. The congressman has also cited a need for an expedited timeframe with regard to provisions that create greater choice and competition and noted his continued support for a public option that the Congressional Budget Office says would further reduce costs.